

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NATO 07256 271444Z
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TAGS: OCON, NATO, MILI
SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT BY THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE
SAFETY ASPECTS OF TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE OF MILITARY
AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES

REF: A. DS/AMM(77)33, 19 JUL 77
B. USNATO 7134 DTG 230857ZJUL77

1. REF A (TEXT FOLLOWS IN PARA 2) IS THE WRITTEN RESPONSE
TO THE QUESTION RAISED BY THE NE NADREP WHICH WE REPORTED
IN PARA 5 REF B. REF A IS PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION AND
POSSIBLE USE IN DETERMINING ACCEPTABILITY OF SUBJECT REPORT.

2. TEXT OF REF A FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT.

TO: MR. H. W. SOETENS,
- NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTOR'S REPRESENTATIVE,
- NETHERLANDS DELEGATION TO NATO

C.C.: NADREPS
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FROM: HEAD OF CODIFICATION AND QUALITY SECTION, DEFENCE
- SUPPORT DIVISION (H. SCHUERKENS)

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT BY THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE
SAFETY ASPECTS OF TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE OF MILITARY
AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES

REFERENCES: (1) AC/259-D/586 DATED 27TH JUNE 1977

- (2) AT(77)42 DATED 12TH JULY 1977

IN REPLY TO YOUR QUESTIONS DURING THE LAST NADREP MEETING CONCERNING THE REPORT BY THE GROUP OF EXPERTS (GIVEN UNDER REFERENCE (1) ABOVE), I SHOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE FOLLOWING EXPLANATION ON THE POINTS YOU RAISED:

- (A) MEETINGS OUTSIDE BRUSSELS:

- ALL MEETINGS OF THE MAIN GROUP AND THE MAIN SUB-GROUP (ON STORAGE) WERE HELD IN BRUSSELS; NO MEETING OUTSIDE BRUSSELS WAS PROVIDED SECRETARIAL SUPPORT BY NATO.

- THE THREE MEETINGS, AT ZWIJNDRECHT, TOULON AND COPENHAGEN, WERE ARRANGED AFTER MAIN GROUP AGREEMENT AND FOLLOWING A REQUEST BY A MEMBER NATION TO COMBINE THE MEETING WITH VISITS TO TECHNICAL INSTALLATIONS, IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE PARTICULAR SITUATIONS WHICH HAD AN IMPACT ON THE WORK OF THE GROUP. AGAIN: NONE OF THESE MEETINGS WERE ATTENDED BY NATO STAFF.

- THE EDITORIAL SUB-GROUP IS COMPOSED OF TWO MEMBERS ONLY (ONE FROM DENMARK, THE OTHER FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM), NO SECRETARIAL SUPPORT IS PROVIDED BY NATO. FOR THE SAKE OF ECONOMY MEETINGS WERE HELD IN TURN IN LONDON AND COPENHAGEN.
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HAGEN, RATHER THAN BRUSSELS WHICH WOULD HAVE INVOLVED BOTH MEMBERS IN TRAVEL EXPENSES, ETC.

- (B) THE FACT THAT THE SEA TRANSPORTATION SUB-GROUP HAS NOT HELD ANY MEETING IN 1976 IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE DRAFT SEA TRANSPORTATION MANUAL HAD TO BE CO-ORDINATED BY ITS CHAIRMAN WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS IMCO, AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE READY FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE 1977 WHEN THE FINAL VERSION HAS TO BE APPROVED BY THE SUB-GROUP.

- (C) NEITHER THE AC/15 GROUP OR WORKING PARTIES OF THE MAS DEAL WITH PEACETIME SAFETY ASPECTS OF STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION OF MILITARY AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES. WHILE THE AC/15 GROUP HAS AN OVERALL PLANNING FUNCTION, THE MAS WORKING PARTIES ARE ONLY INVOLVED, AS FAR AS RADIATION HAZARDS ARE CONCERNED, WITH THE TRANSPORT OF WEAPONS IN THE READY STATE (WHILE THIS IS SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FROM THE AC/258 EED SUB-GROUP'S TERMS OF REFERENCE). I MAY ADD THAT INFRASTRUCTURE FREQUENTLY ASKS THE ADVICE OF AC/258 FOR THEIR PROJECTS ON MATTERS OF SAFETY. END TEXT. BENNETT

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